Niagara

CAMP NIAGARA

WITH A HISTORICAL SKETCH OF NIAGARA ON THE LAKE AND NIAGARA CAMP BY LIEUT COL E CRUIKSHANK F R S C

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HEADQUARTERS STAFF

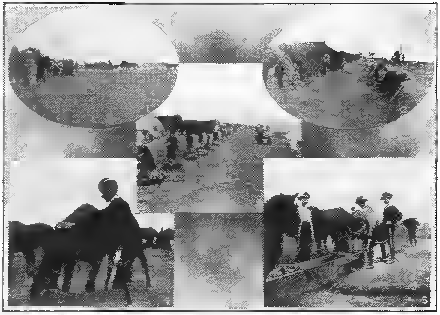
From left to right of picture. STANDING—Capt Telford Maj Van Straubenzee Maj Langton Lieut.-Col Marston Maj Macdonald, Capt Stanley Capt Harbottle. SEATED ON CHAIRS—Lieut.-Col Thesiger Lieut.-Col Pigott Lieut.-Col Benson Gen Otter Lieut.-Col Galloway, Lieut.-Col Hall Lieut.-Col Nottingham. SEATED ON GROUND—Capt Reade Capt Bewsh.

Historical Sketch of Niagara on the-Lake and Niagara Camp.

BY LIEUT.-COLONEL E. CRUIKSHANK, F.R.S.C.

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE enjoys the distinction of being one only the oldest incorporated town in the Province of Ontario, but also in one of the first permanent British settlements made in this province. By the terms of a treaty negotiated by Sir W. Johnson with the Seneca Indians made the 3rd day of April, 1764, the more than a year after his capture of Fort Niagara possessions in North America by the British Empire by the Peace of Paris, a narrow strip of land beginning at Fort Niagara and extending southward to the creek above Fort Schlosser on the Niagara river was then ceded "comprehending he who a carrying-place which the Indians on both sides have used time out of mind to transport their canoes & bateaux from Lake Erie to the Lake Ontario, and of all rivers falling into the latter. Those accordingly are a evidently enough the purposes of service and defence, rather than colonization for during the summer of 1764, when the wars of the American Revolution were fiercely raging the world over and Fort Niagara had become a haven of refuge for hundreds of loyal folk, who had been mercilessly persecuted from their homes in New York and Pennsylvania, Sir Frederick Haldimand, who was then Governor General of Canada, determined to construct a village on the west bank of the river for the accommodation of its unemployed officers and settled those refugees by Lieut.-Colonel John Butler of the Indian Department and at the same time a township the settlement of Butler's Rangers was formed. Among the settlers of that year this building, which is almost for its only surviving and connected known as Butler's Barracks, was completed and was in use as a barracks for many years. By the years the number of settlers had increased to twenty-a families, who had upwards of seven hundred acres of land under cultivation well stocked with horses, cattle and swine. In the summer of 1784 Lieut.-Colonel Butler's corps of rangers was disbanded, and nearly five hundred non-loyalist men were added to the settlement, which was extended to include the whole Niagara Peninsula by treaty with the Mississaugua Indians, and liberal grants of lands were made to all officers and soldiers, as well as to other loyalists. For nearly seven years Fort Niagara was held as a fortress from the headquarters and base of operations for the remained body of garrisons, whence they had to the first equal time of Lake Ontario. Provisions surrounding from Oswego on Lake Ontario to the Ohio Lake in Kentucky. The operations had been extended with such an ongoing success and they were so situated in securing the point of attack and the base of supplies that their traffic counter was found to be of value but was useless to attempt pursuit as if they had been packs of wolves from the forest.

In 1791 Lieut.-Gov. per Simcoe brought with him from England his young family to the Queen's Rangers, also as a professional American students recently enlisted for service in Canada, who were appointed for many years of Quartermaster and Niagara, but were dear Mahomed About five years also where the modesty also become soldiers. Wants a was designed to the middle of the new province Upper Canada, and was soon after incorporated as a town. In 1796 it was selected on the high ground overlooking the mouth of the river for a small fortress, which was named George in honour of his King. The garrison of Fort Niagara was removed to this place upon the evacuation of that post in the spring year. It was occupied successively by detachments of the 5th and 24th Regiments. Fort Lake and other heavy ones were erected in 1798 for various situations, by a part of the Second Battalion of the Royal Canadian Volunteers, who returned to Fort Niagara in the place. In September 1800, this corps was disbanded and the 49th Regiment occupied the military posts in Upper Canada for the ten ten years, when it was succeeded by the 41st, which held them when war was declared by the United States in June 1812. For George was the principal garrison and headquarters station in this province during that time. It is described by an official report as an irregular fortress consisting of six small bastions faced with framed rubble and plank connected by open curtains with a ditch in front and surrounded by a slight covering of dirt. Provisions and ammunition were stored underneath by four magazines constructed in the ditch and defences. Although partially commanding Fort Niagara it was found overlooked by high ground on the opposite bank of the river and



3 and P[illegible]n o Light Horse 2. H[illegible]se [illegible]g[illegible]noon.—G G B[illegible] 3 A w[illegible]Dressed Hac[illegible]Su[illegible]ro[illegible]G[illegible]H.C
4 Horse groom[illegible]n 5 t Dra[illegible]ven Lla[illegible] 6 G G kG[illegible]white Lig horses.

Youngstown. The garrison was raised to big blockhouses, mounting nineteen 24-pdr guns besides which there was a reserve in the magazine for officers. The two mess was but of stone, with an arched roof, but was not considered bomb-proof. The whole of this fortification was strongly cut of repair and not deemed capable of much defence. Under Gineral Brock's repairs now, however the fort was considerably strengthened and several detached trenches were thrown up as commanding positions on the river. No attack upon was attempted until the morning of October 13th 1812, when, getting in a position of troops on the march to cross the passage of the river at Queenston the six guns of Fort Niagara opened all their guns upon Fort George and the town of Niagara, with such destructive effect that by noon on the fourteenth not one gun with thirteen artillery other buildings was now on fire by shell or hot shot. While the greater part of the town was occupied the fire on the batteries of the regular garrison were employed

During the forenoon guns were worked with such rapidity and effect, by the detachment of the Lincoln Artillery under Captain Cameron and Powell, assisted by non-commissioned officers of the 41st Regiment left in the garrison of how the American batteries were completely silenced. It was then discovered that the roof of the magazine in which cannot reel could be fired barrels of powder had been set on fire by a shell. Without an instant's hesitation Lieutenant Castonia Volunteer of the Royal Engineers rushed upon the burning building and has gallantly succeeded in the progress of its crowd by others, his actual exertions was more keen and the flame extinguished in his hands without assistance. The governmental storehouse at the water-side near Navy Hall were, however, not near so fortunate.

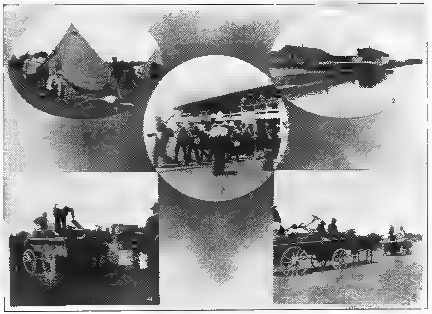
One of the largest guns remained in Fort Niagara some week being dismounted per wrecking, he sin ferns and it is being sent at least. On consequence of this accident and the heavy destruction of again the fire was from Fort George I was exactly noted by an officer on which did the wind not be necessary their works for against, but to give the enemy had caused. During the an armistice was concerted at which could meet on short until 9 o'clock on November 20th. At daybreak on the following morning Fort George and the fire opening on the town began a second bombardment. Fort Niagara which had in the meantime been considerably strengthened, but appears to have been wisely garrisoned. The fire of the guns was regular and well directed, causing in many instances considerable, while flames, apparently caused by the explosion of the shells could be seen rising from within. One of these shells penetrated a blockhouse, dismounting the only gun it contained, there, while another exploded the ammunition contained in the roof of the same house for more than an hour. Again a gun burst in the fire of the artillery was evidently caused. A large building immediately within the walls, which contained the leading place from observation, had also been set on fire and burnt. One of the guns in the battery in Youngstown had been dismounted and the others only fired on occasions when the enemy's guns ceased. On the Canadian side the mess-house at Fort Riall was destroyed and numerous buildings burnt as one fell or had taken fire, and while many there were much damaged. A mark the British gun crossed firing, the blockhouse was struck at one General round shot and shells, while in American batteries were supposed to have been nearly an equal number.

With this ammunition within hundred in the river to may be said to have was razed to the ground, six months, all on the 13th of May this the American squadron landed a brigade of infantry where low admiral York (Toronto ten days before. Large torpedo parties were at once set in work, throw up six batteries along the river and on being boats, while reinforcements continued to arrive a mile about seven thousand regular troops, ample supplied in all that in any ways unemployed with the armed mines, which had unshipped instead of mine, this were in a position to cover a landing where they pleased. To oppose this formidable force Sir George Gosset, at Vincent, had only 1080 regular soldiers with five field guns, 238 militia and the Indians. A was deemed necessary to watch the line of river with a strong force Queenston to the mouth of the Four Mile Creek on Lake Ontario, his small body was posted, and three brigade guns, of nearly equal strength one of which was assigned to the defence of the river and another to the lake front, while the third was held in reserve near Fort George. At this time the post was armed with five guns. Six detached batteries were in connection guns. All of these however were open to the rear and while one battery had been thrown between Fort George and Queenston Fort were three other batteries each mounting one gun and at the latter place there were two batteries mounting three guns. A of Dutch Battle even red small garrisons, and Vincent's weak force was accordingly two much scattered to be quick y concentrated at any point.

1 Skirmishing drill. No. 7 Company 44th Regiment. 2 Band, 9 at High orders, on the march. 3 48th Highlanders. 4 57th Regiment taking it easy in field. 5 23rd Regiment at rest. 6 30th Regiment in field.

Before daybreak — May 25 — British scouts on the river heard the enemy launching boats at the Five Mile Meadows near Low's, and gave the alarm. The gun at Brown's Point began firing; that directly and at dawn the garrison of Fort Gage opened fire upon some boats that could be plainly seen coming down the river close to the opposite bank. This interesting event upon which the considerable fire of no less than seventy-five heavy guns and mortars answered at Fort Niagara and adjacent batteries arranged in the form of a crescent, a distance varying from seven hundred to four thousand yards. The sun-rounder at Fort George was soon discommoded by a round shot which shattered a number of bricks and knocked each artery barrack and other wooden building inside the fort was set on fire by hot, incan shower of balls and shells in the general uproar. The guns a were soon driven by the flames from the crowded fire-positions nearly the flagstaff, by the mission counter are gradually unstrung for a gun of the same calibre on the Fort a point a mile to the north-western bastion, until Major Holcroft arrive ring that the barracks and storehouse would be totally destroyed and that shells were burning in every corner of the a after a close and sustained artillery fire extended for guns and ex-tion. The gun at the point on the main a Mississaugas Point and the Cherry Tree had remained in it by the order of Lt.-Colonel Myers, who hoped by so doing to deceive the enemy of any success by turning their batteries upon him as and the other contented themselves were to leave taken the part a the west to throw up of entrenchments. The Americans discontinued firing about two o'clock, satisfying the enemy that afternoon and the fatigue and the exhaustion of the many preceding days. The shore and boats soared now to the gun shot we closer by daybreak next morning. A a rental of five closed the troops were placed in readiness to be in readiness to be ordered by their stage to attack the advance party, and to be ready to land.

Shortly a signal gun was heard to sound on the shore of May 27th a rocket was seen to rise from the ramparts of Fort Niagara and a gun was discharged. The ground to be a signal for the troops on the shore to begin to land. Scarcely was the rocket released and burst at the air in a shower Long ere the sun had risen a thick fog hung over the land and river, in which the soldiers were almost as much shrouded the Americans had, consist of or sixteen hundred men, were seen stealing across the mouth of the river closely followed by a row boats and forty-four large boats and scows, filled with men, armed to the teeth, destined, seemingly, with great regularity and precision. These movements was favored by a gentle breeze from the eastward, which however, scarcely ruffled a ripple on the surface of the water. The sun at breakfast-time of large mist a obscured a fifty-one guns, mostly of long ranges and heavy calibres, and large rock by the stations assigned them, a short the slightest a position, were ang the shore of every across which lost fire. The land batteries responded to the same time, and the British positions in the vicinity of Niagara and Fort George was embodied in a crescent-fire from more than seventy guns and mortars, which searched every part of it, with a range, and only a few who must any extremely ugly. The last sig of the troops began about an hour late, me the mouth of the Two Mile Creek, where a just nearly south, and turned by a street here it attained a favorable a position or three to land in safety by the boats. At some a may e embarked in guns the British fire was a assailed by the of companies of the Glengarry Light Infantry, two companies of the 1 of Lincoln, and the grenadiers of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment and strove back a discord. The guns of the ships which had ceased firing, has reopened and forced the British troops to take shelter in a neighboring grove, where they were soon joined by three hundred of the Regiment of the Line. The Americans continued to land in an overwhelming a in numbers no more exceeded, no doubted opposed by not more than five hundred, and a only. A second a attempt to land on the beach was crushed, but a it succeeded, and after driving on this place about the Royal Scots struggle was continued for a quarter of an hour during which the opposing a re exchanged several volleys at a d source of not more than, as the reports. An unlucky shot fired and the command of the Scots force was obliged no retreat to a second retreat slowly, these hundred yards a the road leading to the brow hundred a hill and wounded behind. Place com-sion of the guns, which, the British guns, came to inspect and after considerable a the position in fact ria flank was threatened by a number of musketry, the Scots group to retire through the fields in the rear of Fort Omanda. Th a was effected without disorder, and a rapid a retreat in the troops retreat re from the vicinity of Fort George, which, in a the same time abandoned and its magazine blown up. Colonel Myers' main reached his column by the time of British, where a and at the last step of May had on the night of the 26th of June he crossed upon his pursuers and surprising them among a Stoney Creek, seven each a swinging blow but they fell back in haste



SEEN THE FIRST DAY

1. Pitching tent—Army Medical Corps. 2. Regiment at dock ready to march to the Camp Grounds. 3. Disembarking from N. N. Co's steamer. 4. Unloading stores. 5. Baggage coming into camp.

to Niagara. Nothing two generals last more than two hundred other premises it has hands. Another seven fleets was sold to the to the invaders in the Seneca District in the township of Thorold where an entire column of nearly six hundred men was surrounded and compelled to surrender. These reverses had such a dispiriting effect that they left themselves no an immediate camp adjoining the works at Bank of Port George with the troops thereon and in Fort Mississauga. Two Bill Creek and McFall's woods became known as Battle Hill. They were a newly surprised and completely blockaded for seven months by a much inferior force. During this period many engagements took place. On July 8th a detachment of an American cavalry, numbering forty men, was killed or taken at Bell's farm on the Swansea Road and on the 19th of the same month the force surprised the American outpost at Gaylord's. During these latter days there was only one prisoner. Information of General Proctor's plans on the 6th. Thirteen constituted Major to the advanced position, and was withdrawn to Burlington Heights about the middle of October but on the seventh of December the officers in command, Colonel John Murray with pushed forward to St Catharines. Three days later they came near the enemy's line lining now to Niagara, was overrun by night by the order of the Commodore at Fort George preparatory to the evacuation of that post. Murray then advanced with such to possess a position that the American garrison was forced to retreat in the morning leaving three tents standing and several blockade artillery guns in the stock of fire to which they had no time to remove.

On the night of December 19th Fort Niagara was taken by assault and the American forces driven to retreat. Others from the battery on Lake also fled in their wrong, but the artillery and a number of guns. Then retreating the garrison invaded with the night to Black Rock and Buffalo on the same 30th.

During the second and early summer of 1814 a small earth work surrounded by a dry ditch, and enclosing a block house on the commanding on Mississauga Point, named it this work Fort Riall. Through of the Major General Brock recommend on the Niagara to consult but it did not known as Fort Mississauga," and Fort George was regarded and strengthened. After the Battle of Stoney Creek on July 5 General Riall placed a detention of men to withdrawn upon in those forts and either on the Twenty Mile Creek, but a hundred by were shortly superintend by the American American, who superseded within cannon-shot, no assault was attempted.

After the close on of a battle they were garrisoned by the 49th Regiment, who was relieved by the 20th. During the September 13, 1813 they were successively succeeded by detachments of the 3rd, 41st, King's Dragoon Guards and 1st Provincial Light Infantry. In the Royal Canadian Rifles Regiment was embodied for frontier service, and on its disbandment in Nova detachment of this corps was organized here. From April 1814 to April 1866 the Second Administrative District of Ontario Military was stationed on the frontier with headquarters at Niagara.

From the date of the incorporation of the Militia in Upper Canada the town has been the headquarters of the 19th Regiment of Lincoln Militia which has succeeded here another on the 25th of July, the birthday of King George the Third for muster and encampment at the accession of Queen Victoria in 1837. There are in service now that the Common was of the militia body, of no 81 battalion-eight and four consecutive body of troops. In June of that year the first Militia camp of practice in the army District No. 2 was formed and attended by 4,000 officers and men. The Garrison Artillery of 250 strong, being composed of 4 officers and 54 non-commissioned officers and men, was also with the exception of a very few years since, camps have been formed here annually by various militia from less than two thousand to nearly five thousand each, and have been attended a scene that no only in the camps of Militia Districts No. 2, but by most of those in the two adjoining districts.

A LIST OF CORPS OF THE CANADIAN MILITIA WHICH HAVE BEEN IN CAMP AT NIAGARA, BETWEEN 1837 AND 1866

1st Battalion Governor's Royal Canadian Regiment, Governor-General's Body Guard Hussars, and Dragoons, 1st Prince of Wales Canal on 41 Lincoln, 5th Town 2 Light Horse, 4th, 7th, 8th, 10th and 11th Prince Edward's Canal as Regiment 2 Field Co. Corps of Guides Cavalry and Queen's Own Rifles, 10th Royal Canadian 3rd Regiment, 5th 6th 19th, 20th, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th and, 44th, 47th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 57th, 58th, 77th, 91st, 93rd, Canadian Army Service Corps, Army Medical Corps, Field Ambulance Nos. 2, 3, 31, and XII. Niagara Provincial Corps Company

The Niagara Historical Society possesses an extensive and unique collection of books, papers, documents and objects of historical interest, for the accommodation of which in rooms has long been recognized by the immediate city of the establishment.

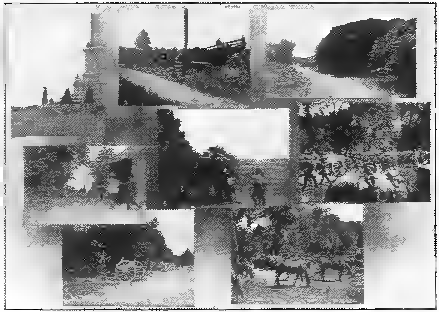
The building in local lies have also been a paper site 1914, had by the Society with minor improvements. The grave of George Brock in Fort George. The 1st Regt of Mil. 47th, 1913. The site of the first on Council House. The win at the Gleaner printing office and Museum

Mrs built in 1906 The site of Stony Hall. The house of Colonel Powell. The site of Lord Governor Simcoe's cabinet.

Mrs. Kirkpatrick

FORT [illegible]

CHURCH S[illegible]OF ST. GABRIEL



THE SHAM FIGHT

1. 48th Highlanders stack arms at Brock's Monument. 2. Guarding road—48th Reg't. 3. Scene in Queenston quarries. 4. At Queenston quarries.—"Fire!" 5. Gen. Otter and suite on near Brock's Monument. 6. 48th Foot marching to camp after the fight. 7. Near Scott's Monument. Ready! 8. G. G. B. G. headed by Lieut.-Col. Merritt on road south of Scott's.

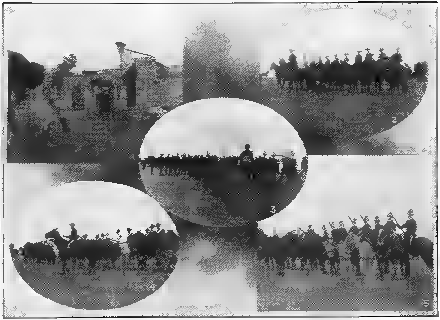
7 — [illegible] NEW [illegible] BY LEE'S BARRACKS IN THE BACKGROUND [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

ART [illegible] A.F.

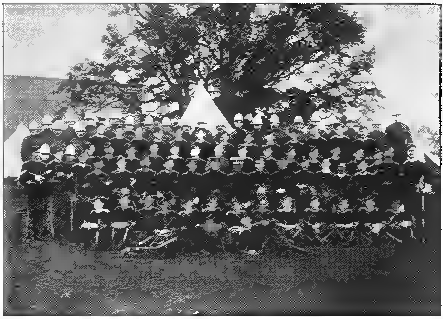
OFFICERS OF THE 3D INFANTRY BR CADE

ARMY SIGNAL CORPS CAMP

W[illegible] AS[illegible] M[illegible] A[illegible] W HEN[illegible] D



Horsemanship—G. G. B. G. 2. Toronto Light Horse—ready for inspection. 3 Second Dragoons returning from rifle butts.
4. G. G. B. G.—ready for Inspection 5. Second Dragoons—ready for inspection.



OFFICERS OF FOURTH INFANTRY BRIGADE

1 Field Ambulance Nos. 10, 11 and 12. 2. Water Carts—Army Medical Corps. 3. Trumpeters, 3rd Dragoons.
4. Ambulance Wagons—Army Medical Corps. 5. Y. M. C. A. tent on Camp Ground.

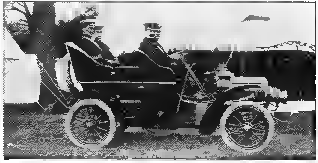
OFFICERS OF FORTY FOURTH REGIMENT

BUGLE BAND OF FORTY-FOURTH REGIMENT ARGYLL [illegible] Photo. by Lush, 21 Queen E. Toronto

OFFICERS ARMY MEDICAL CORPS— FIFTH WHEEL NESS Photo. by [illegible] Queen E. Toronto

1 Serving meat and rum to cooks of 13th Regt. 2. Regulars from Stanley Barracks, who acted as police during camp. 3. Rolling up tents from rear. 4. Field entertainment. Others from rear. 5. 21st Regiment preparing to march to other camp.

AN HAND AT BREAKFAST. Photo by Lieut. & Adjt. Queen, R. Tweed's.

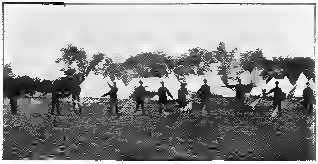


The Automobile Wireless Apparatus. Major W. B. S. Knowles. The other gentlemen are Lieut.-Col. Pelham, Major Orr and Capt. Hagar—all officers of the 78th Regt. The headlights of the machine helped at the first launch of balloon at the Bivouac on Queenston Heights—dawn flight.

MAKING ORIL

[illegible] [illegible] 3 The blanket throw 4 Clean up kitchen. [illegible] C. G. R. C.
6. The toilet—and Dragoons.

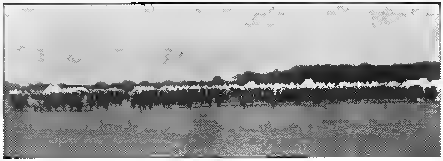
HARBOR SCENE AT QUEEN ALARA



THE ALDERSHOT OVENS AT NIACARA CAMP.

Green wood fires are built in these anti-circulation ovens. When the wood has burned out the coals and ashes are withdrawn and the bread and roasting pans put in their place. The retained heat sufficiently bakes and roasts.

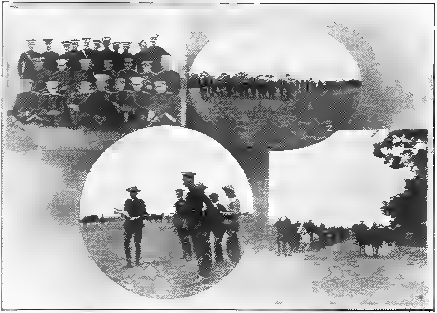
1. Youngest soldier camp—Stanley Fleming aged 7 years of Stanley Barracks, Toronto. 2. Stable. 3. Training in Scotch blood of and Dragoon officers—James Allen aged 16 years, Toronto. 4. Canteen. 5. Headquarters. 5. Gen. Otter and staff on field day. The General returned from the front.



SECOND DRAGOONS

ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

Pen ag pearons. 2 A line of cooking outfits in the plains y zuma. 3, 4, 5. Wit the co 6. [illegible]
7. The officers' mess, Fort Dragoons



Officers 2nd Dragoon[illegible] 2. G. C. B.[illegible] marching on their Re turn. 3. Mount[illegible] 4.[illegible] n afr[illegible]ss[illegible] he country.

[illegible] THE ROYAL [illegible] ARRIVING

[illegible] RIVER, QUARTERMASTER HEADQUARTERS AND BARRACKS BUILDING

[illegible] DOCKS OF [illegible]

SERGEANTS' MESS [illegible]

CHURCH PARADE

Niagara

CAMP NIAGARA

WITH A HISTORICAL SKETCH OF NIAGARA ON THE LAKE AND NIAGARA CAMP BY LIEUT COL E CRUIKSHANK F R S C

LIEUT.-COL. E. CRUIKSHANK F.R.S.C.

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HEADQUARTERS STAFF

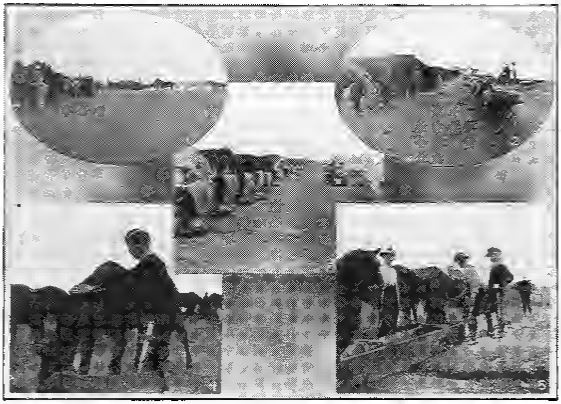
From left to right of picture. STANDING—Capt. Telford, Maj. Van Nostran, Maj. Langton, Lieut.-Col. Hanson, Maj. Macdonald, Capt. Shanly, Capt. Harbottle. SITTING ON CHAIRS—Lieut.-Col. Thurs, Lieut.-Col. Pellatt, Lieut. Col. Denison, Gen. Otter, Lieut.-Col. Galloway, Lieut.-Col. Hall, Lieut. Col. Fotheringham. SITTING ON GROUND—Capt. Bruce, Capt. Beardi

Historical Sketch of Niagara-on-the-Lake and Niagara Camp

BY LIEUT.-COLONEL E. CRUIKSHANK, E.R.S.C.

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE enjoys the distinction of being not only the oldest incorporated town in the Province of Ontario, but also the site of the first permanent British settlement within its limits. By the terms of a treaty negotiated by Sir William Johnson with the Seneca Indians upon the 3rd day of April 1764, a little more than a year after the cession of the French possessions in North America to the British Empire by the Treaty of Paris, a narrow strip of land beginning at Fort Niagara and extending southward to the creek above Fort Schlosser on Lake Niagara and was then ceded "commencing at a white cat-tail place with the lands on both sides the strait and containing a tract about fourteen miles in length and four in breadth," was transferred to the Crown together with the right of cutting timber on their lands elsewhere and the free use of all harbours on Lake Ontario, and of all streams falling into it. These privileges were evidently sought for purposes of traffic and defence rather than colonization, but during the summer of 1780, when the wars of the American Revolution were fiercely raging, the world over, and Fort Niagara had become a haven of refuge for hundreds of loyal ats, who had been mercilessly evicted from their former homes in New York and Pennsylvania, Sir Frederick Haldimand who was then Governor General of Canada, determined to construct a large log stockade on the west bank of the river for the accommodation of the surplus of fifteen hundred among these refugees by Lieut. Colonel John Butler of the Indian Department and at the same time to encourage the settlement of their families upon the adjacent Crown Lands. During the autumn of that year the building which is used for military purposes and commonly known as Butler's Barracks, was completed and five or six families were settled along the river. In three years the number of settlers had increased to forty-six families, who had upwards of seven hundred acres of land under cultivation, well stocked with horses, cattle and swine. In the summer of 1784, Lieut.-Colonel Butler's corps of rangers was disbanded, and nearly five hundred able-bodied men were added to the settlement which was extended so as to include the whole Niagara Peninsula by treaty with the Mississauga Indians, and liberal grants of lands were made to all officers and soldiers, as well as to other loyalists. For nearly seven years Fort Niagara and Butler's Barracks had been the headquarters and base of operations of the renowned body of partisans, whence they had waged forth upon their raids against the American frontier extending from Oswego on Lake Ontario to the Blue Licks in Kentucky. These operations had been attended with such unvarying success and they were so adroit in selecting the point of attack and the best line of retreat that the baffled enemies were wont to declare that it was useless to attempt pursuit as if they had been a pack of wolves from the forest.

In 1784 Lieut.-Colonel Butler's corps known as the Queen's Rangers, also mainly composed of American loyalists, spec ally enlisted for service in Canada, who were mustered for several years at Queenston and Niagara, but were finally disbanded about five years later when the majority also became settlers. Niagara was designated as the capital of the new province of Upper Canada, and was soon after incorporated as a town. In 1795 a site was selected on the high ground overlooking the mouth of the river for a small fieldwork which was named Fort George in honor of the King. The garrison of Fort Niagara was removed to this place upon the evacuation of that post in the following year. It was accepted successive y by detachments of the 5th and 24th Regiments of the Line and when these troops were withdrawn in 1798 for service elsewhere by a part of the Second Battalion of the Royal Canadian Volunteers, enlisted in the Province to take their place. In September 1812, this corps was disbanded and the 49th Regiment occupied the military posts in Upper Canada for the next ten years, when it was succeeded by the 41st which held them when war was declared by the United States in June 1812. Fort George was the principal garrison and headquarters station in the province during that time. It is described in an official report as an irregular fieldwork, consisting of six small bastions faced with framed timber and plank, connected by lines of palisades twelve feet in height, and surrounded by a shallow dry ditch. Its situation and construction were alike condemned by the inspecting engineer as being all judged and delaiv ive. Although partially commanding Fort Niagara it was itself overlooked by high ground on the opposite bank of the river and



Muster Parade—Toronto Light Horse 2. Horses feeding at noon—G G B. G 3 A well-dressed line—Squadron "D" G G B. G
4. Horse grooming in 2nd Dragoon Lines. 5 G G B. G watering horses.

Youngstown. The garrison was lodged in log blockhouses, affording quarters for 220 men, besides which there was a separate building for the officers. The magazine was built of stone with an arched roof, but was not considered bomb-proof. The whole of the fortification was greatly out of repair and not deemed capable of much defence. Under General Brock's supervision however the fort was considerably strengthened and several detached earthworks were thrown up on commanding points in the vicinity. No attack upon it was attempted until the morning of October 13th, 1812, when perceiving a column of troops on the march to oppose the passage of the river at Queenston, the garrison of Fort Niagara opened on them from guns upon Fort George and the town of Niagara, with such destructive effect that in a few minutes the Courthouse and gaol with fifteen or sixteen other buildings were set on fire by shells or hot shot. What the greatest part of the militia who occupied the fort in the absence of the regular garrison were employed in fighting the flames as guns were worked with such vigor and effect by a detachment of the Lincoln Artillery under Captains Cameron and Powell assisted by two non-commissioned officers of the 41st Regiment that in the course of an hour the American batteries were completely silenced. It was then discovered that the roof of the magazine which contained eight barrels of powder had been set on fire by a shell. Without an instant's hesitation Captain Vigneaux of the Royal Engineers climbed upon the building bucketing and his gallant example being promptly followed by others, the metal covering was soon torn off and the flames extinguished in the timbers underneath. The government storehouse and the water-side near Navy Hall was, however, totally consumed.

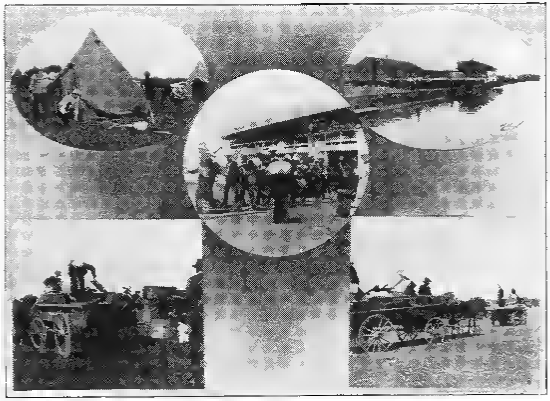
One of the largest guns mounted in Fort Niagara burst while being discharged, wrecking the platform and disabling several men. In consequence of this accident and the heavy fire directed against this place from Fort George it was evacuated by its garrison which did not venture to re-occupy their works for several hours after the contending batteries had ceased. Next day an armistice was concluded which continued to affect until 9 p.m. on 1st November 20th. At daybreak on the following morning Fort George and the neighboring batteries began a second bombardment of Fort Niagara, which had in the meantime been considerably strengthened but appears to have been weakly garrisoned. The fire of its guns was irregular and ill-directed ceasing at times for considerable intervals, while flames appear to have been caused by the explosion of shells, could be seen rising from within. One of these shells penetrated a blockhouse, dismounting the only gun in position there, while another silenced the cannon mounted on the roof of the mess-house for more than an hour. Again a gun burst in the fort with disastrous results, and by five o'clock in the afternoon the whole of its artillery was absolutely silenced. A large building close under the walls which concealed the loading place from observation, had also been set on fire and burnt. One of the guns in the battery at Youngstown had been dismounted and the others only fired an occasional shot at great intervals. On the Canadian side the mess-house a Navy Hall was destroyed and seventeen buildings were set on fire by hot shot in the town, while many others were much damaged. At dark the British gun ceased firing having thrown red hot shot and two thousand round shot and shells, while the American batteries were supposed to have fired nearly an equal number.

With this cannonade native hostilities in this vicinity may be said to have terminated for the next six months, but on the 9th of May 1813 the American squadron landed a brigade of infantry, which had captured York (Toronto) ten days before. Large fatigue parties were at once set at work throwing up batteries along the river and building boats, while reinforcements continued to arrive until about seven thousand regular troops amply supplied with field artillery were assembled with their armed vessels, having undisputed control of the lake were at a position to cover a nucleus where they pleased. To oppose this formidable force Brigadier General Vincent had only nine regular soldiers, with five field pieces, 350 militia and fifty Indians. As it was deemed necessary to watch a front of eleven miles, extending from Queenston to the mouth of the Four Mile Creek on Lake Ontario, this small body was subdivided into three brigades of nearly equal strength one of which was assigned to the defence of the river and another to the lake front, while the third was held in reserve near Fort George. At this time the post was armed with five guns. Six detached batteries on its left mounted ten guns. All of these however were open in the rear and liable to be enfiladed if taken in reverse by vessels upon the lake. At late vals the bank of the river between Fort George and Queenston. There were three main batteries, each mounting one gun, and at the latter place there were two batteries mounting three guns All of these works required small garrisons, and Vincent's weak force was accordingly too much scattered to be quickly concentrated at any point.

1 Skirmishing drill, No. 7 Company 44th Regiment. 2. Band, 91st Highlanders on the march. 3. 48th Highlanders. 4. 77th Regiment taking it easy in field 5 23rd Regiment in field. 6. 36th Regiment in field.

Before daybreak on May 25 a British picket on the river heard the enemy launching boats at the Five Mile Meadows near Lewiston and gave the alarm. The gun at Bryan's Point began firing in that direction, and at dawn the garrison of Fort George opened fire upon some boats that would be plainly seen coming down the river close to the opposite bank. This immediately drew upon them the concentrated fire of no less than twenty-five heavy guns and mortars mounted on Fort Niagara and adjacent batteries arranged in the form of a crescent at distances varying from seven hundred to one thousand yards. The two ye pounders in Fort George was soon silenced and by a round shot, which shattered its carriage and before seven o'clock every barge and other wooden building inside the fort was set on fire by the incessant shower of hot-shot and shells that rained upon it. The gunners were soon driven by the flames from the twenty-four-pounder near the flagstaff, but the marginal contact was gallantly maintained by a gun of the same calibre in the navalier and a smaller piece in the north-western bastion, until Major Holcroft perceiving that the barracks and the ordnance would be totally destroyed and that shells were bursting in every corner of the works, directed the undaunted artillerists to abandon their guns and retire under cover. During all this time the gunners at Missasauga Point and the Cherry Tree had remained silent by the order of Lieut.-Colonel Myers, who hoped by so doing to deprive the enemy of any excuse for turning their batteries upon the town and the other disabled batteries seem to have taken little part in the action from want of ammunition. The Americans continued firing about two o'clock, and during the course of that afternoon and the following day their cowboats leisurely reconnoitered the shore and took soundings within gun shot without the slightest molestation. As a result of their observations buoys were placed to mark the channels to be occupied by their ships to silence the shore batteries and cover the landing of troops.

Shortly after reveille had sounded on the morning of May 27th a rocket was seen to rise from the rampart of Fort Niagara and a single gun was discharged. This proved to be a signal for all the American batteries to begin a cannonade which was not returned, and ceased at the end of half an hour. Long after the sun had risen a thick fog hung over the lake and river; but when this rolled away about eight o'clock the Amer ican fleet, consisting of sixteen armed vessels was seen standing across the mouth of the river closely followed by one hundred and thirty four large boats and scows, filled with men, formed in three compact divisions, moving with great regularity and precision. Their approach was favored by a gentle breeze from the eastward which, however scarcely ruffled a ripple on the surface of the water. The armed bloatdecks of these vessels consisted of fifty-one guns, mostly of long range and heavy calibres, and they took up the stations assigned them without the slightest opposition, sweeping the shore in every direction with their fire. Then land batteries re-opened at the same time, and the British position a the victim ty of Niagara and Fort George was subjected to a cross-fire from more than seventy guns and mortars, which searched every part of it within range and easily overwhelmed any attempt to reply. The land ng of the troops began about an hour later near the mouth of the Two Mile Creek, where a level sandy beach, sheltered by a steep bank afforded a favorable position for them to form up after leaving their boats. As soon as they attempted to gain the plain they were assailed by three companies of the Glengarry Light Infantry two companies of the 1st Lincoln Militia and the grenadiers of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment and driven back in disorder. The guns of the ships which had ceased firing then reopened and forced the Em eis troops to take shelter in a neighboring ravine, where they were soon joined by the head ed of the 8th Regiment of the Line. The Amer icans nobinmed to receive re nforcements until the number on shore exceeded two thousand opposed by not more than five hundred and sixty. A second attempt to ascend the bank was repulsed but a third succeeded and after forming on the plain above the hopeless struggle was continued for a quarter of an hour, during which the opposing lines exchanged several volleys at a distance of not more than ten or fifteen yards. Numbers perished and the remnant of the British force was obliged to retreat to a second ravine about three hundred yards in the rear leaving nearly three hundred killed and wounded behind. Five companies of the 49th with a field gun, came to the support, and after remaining in this position until its flank was threatened by a turning movement, orders were given to retire through the fields in the direction of St. Davids. This was effected without molestation and a junction made with the troops retreating from the vicinity of Fort George, which was at the same time abandoned and its magazine blown up. General Vincent continued his retreat to Burlington Heights where he arrived on the last day of May but on the night of the fifth of June he turned upon his pursuers, and surprising their camp at Stoney Creek, struck such a staggering blow that they fell back in haste



SEEN THE FIRST DAY

1. Pitching an Army Medical Corps. 2. Regiment at dock ready to march to the Camp Grounds. 3. Disembarking from N. N. Co's steamer. 4. Unloading stores. 5. Baggage coming into camp.

to Niagara leaving two generals and more than two hundred other prisoners in his hands. Another severe check was administered to the invaders at the Beaver Dams in the township of Thorold where an entire column of nearly six hundred men was surrounded and compelled to surrender. These reverses had such a dispiriting effect that they shut themselves up in an intrenched camp adjoining the western flank of Fort George with their deposits further up and also at the line of the Two Mile Creek and Mr Fitzgerald's house on the River Raisin. Here they were closely watched and virtually blockaded for several months by a much inferior force. During this period many smart skirmishes took place. On July 8th the whole of an American outpost numbering forty men was killed or taken at Bull's farm on the Stoney Creek road and on August 24th a reconnaissance in force surprised all the American outposts at daybreak, killing them into camp with the loss of seventy prisoners. Intelligence of General Procter's defeat on the river Thames caused the American retreat to abandon his advanced position and again withdraw to Burlington Heights, about the middle of October but on the seventh of December his advance guard under Colonel John Murray was pushed forward to St Catharines. Three days later with reinforcements and fifth over Burlington Heights was deliberately burnt by the order of the Commandant at Fort George preparatory to the evacuation of that post. Murray then informed of how much unfavorable impression that the American garrison was forced to retire across the river leaving their tents standing, and several pieces of artillery lying in the ditch of the fort which they had not time to remove.

On the morning of December 19th Fort Niagara was taken by assault and the American force was at the same time driven from the battery on Lewiston Heights, leaving behind their artillery and a number of prisoners. This successful coup de main concluded with the capture of Black Rock and Buffalo on December 30th.

During the spring and early summer of 1814 a small earth work surrounded by a dry ditch, and enclosing a brick tower was constructed on Mississaugh Point named in the time Fort Riall, in honour of the Major General then in command on the Niagara front and has since been known as Fort Mississauga and Fort George was repaired and strengthened. After his defeat at Chippewa on July 5th General Riall received a garrison of nearly twelve hundred men in these forts and retired to the Twenty Mile Creek but although they were closely reconnoitered by the victorious Americans, who approached within cannon-shot no assault was attempted.

After the conclusion of peace they were garrisoned by the 70th Regiment, which was relieved by the 76th. During the Rebellion of 1837-8 they were successively occupied by detachments of the 3rd 43rd, King's Drag on Guards and 1st Frontier Light Infantry. In 1841 the Royal Canadian Rifles Regiment was embodied for Imperial service, and until its disbandment in 1870 it maintained all the corps was quartered here. From April 1865 to April 1866 the Second Administrative Battalion of Volunteer Militia was stationed on this fron ier with headquarters at Niagara.

From the date of the earliest organization of the militia of Upper Canada the town has been the headquarters of the First Regiment of Lincoln Militia, which assembled here annually upon the 4th of June the birthday of King George the Third, for muster and enrollment until the accession of Queen Victoria in 1837. It was not, however, until 1871 that the Canadian was definitely selected as a training-ground for a concentration of troops. In June of that year the district camp of instruction for Military District No. 2 was formed and rendezvoused 4,795 Officers and men. The Camp in June 1872 was still larger being composed of 435 officers and 6,448 non-commissioned officers and privates. With the exception of a very few years since camps have been formed here annually varying in size from a number two thousand to nearly six thousand men and have been attended at some time not only by all the corps in Military District No. 2, but by most of those in the two adjoining districts.

LIST OF CORPS OF THE CANADIAN MILITIA WHICH HAVE BEEN IN CAMP AT NIAGARA BETWEEN 1871 AND 1906

Royal Canadian Dragoons, Royal Canadian Regiment Governor-General's Body Guard, 1st Hussars, 2nd Dragoons, 3rd Prince of Wales Canadian Dragoons, 9th Toronto Light Horse 4th, 7th, 9th, 10th and 16th Field Batteries, Canadian Engineers 2 Field Co. Corps of Guides INFANTRY and Queen's Own Rifles, 10th Royal Grenadiers, 12th Regiment 13th, 19th, 20th 22nd, 23rd, 26th, 27th, 28th 30th, 31st, 32nd 33rd 34th 35th 36th, 37th 38th 39th, 40th, 42nd 44th 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th 49th 50th, 57th 59th, 77th 91st, 97th Canadian Army Service Co 1st, Army Medical Corps, Field Ambulance Nos. X XI and XII Niagara Falls Cadet Company

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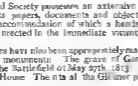
The Niagara Historical Society possesses an articulate and unique collection of books papers, documents and objects of historical interest for the accommodation of which a handsome building has recently been erected in the immediate vicinity of the camp-ground

The following local ties have also been appropriately marked by the Society with stone monuments. The grave of General Brock at Fort George. The Battlefield of May 27th 1813. The site of the Indian Council House. The site of the Governor's printing office and Masonic Hall built in 1792. The site of Navy Hall. The house of Comte de Puisaye. The site of Lieut. Governor Simcoe's residence.



PORT DALHOUSIE

CHURCHES AT OLD NIAGARA

THE SHAM FIGHT

1. 48th Highlanders stacking arms at Brock's Monument. 2. Guarding road—44th Reg't. 3. Scene at Queenston quarries. 4. At Queenston quarries—"Fire!" 5. Gen. Otter and umpires near Brock's Monument. 6. 56th Peel marching to camp after the fight. 7. Near Brock's Monument—"Ready!" 8. G G B. G. headed by Lieut-Col Merritt on road south of St Davids.

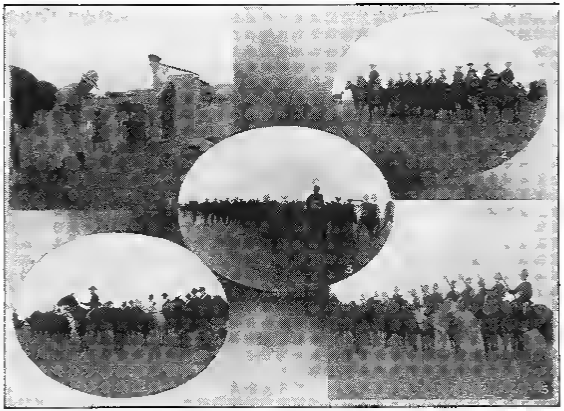
77TH REGIMENT WITH BUTLER'S BARRACKS IN THE BACKGROUND—SEE HISTORICAL SKETCH.

ARTILLERY PARK

OFFICERS OF THIRD INFANTRY BRIGADE

ARMY SERVICE CORPS CAMP

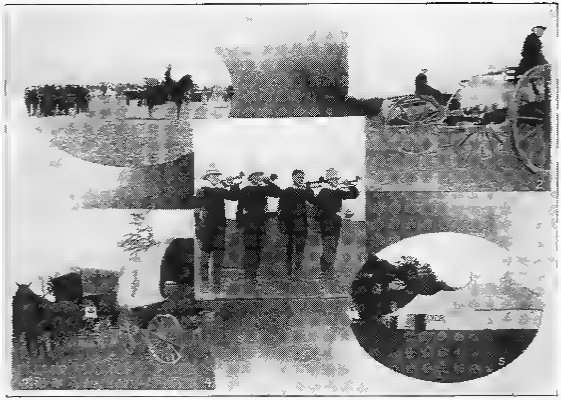
WHEN I FIGHT ARTILLERY MEN AND WOMEN TOO



1 Horseshoeing—G G B G 2. Toronto Light Horse—ready for inspection 3. Second Dragoons returning from rifle butts.
4. G G B G—ready for inspection 5 Second Dragoons—ready for inspection.

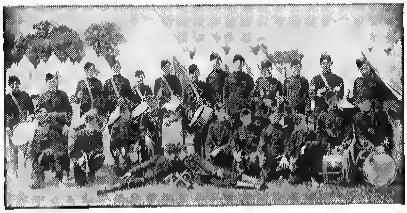
ARMY SERVICE CORPS

OFFICERS OF FOURTH INFANTRY BRIGADE



1 Field Ambulance Nos. 10, 11 and 12. 2. Water Carts—Army Medical Corps. 3. Trumpeters 2nd Dragoons.
4. Ambulance Wagons Army Medical Corps. 5. Y M C A tent on Camp Grounds.

OFFICERS OF FORTY FOURTH REGIMENT

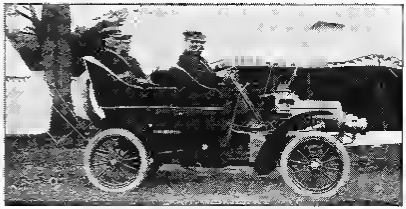


SCYLLE BAND OF FORTY FOURTH REGT—LARGEST IN CAMP Photo by Lusk 24 Queen E Toronto

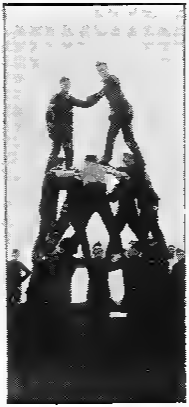
OFFICERS ARMY MEDICAL CORPS "FIFTH WHEEL MESS." Photo. by Lusk 24 Queen E Toronto.

1 Serving meat rations to cooks of 12th Regt. 2. Regulars *from* Stanley Barracks, who acted as police during camp. 3 R fle pits—taken from rear 4 Field entrenchment—taken from rear 5 31st Regiment preparing to entrain after camp.

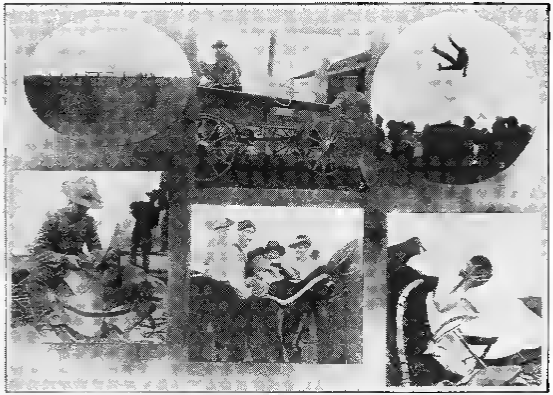
INDIAN BAND—37TH REGIMENT Photo. by Lusk, 2½ Queen E., Toronto



The Auto n Warfare—Property of Major W E S. Knowles. The other gentlemen are Lieut Col Pridemy Major Orr and Capt. Hagar—all officers of the 77th Reg't. The headlights of the machine helped at the distribution of rations at the bivouac on Queenston Heights—shown right.



SCALING DRILL



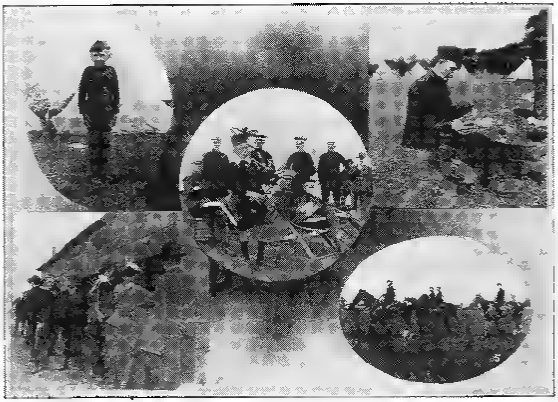
1 At the rifle butts. 2. Unloading brand. 3 The blanket throw 4. Cleaning harness. 5. Pure! Snowball!! —G. G. R.G
6. The toilet—2nd Dragoons.

HARBOR SCENE AT OLD NIAGARA.

SIGNAL DRILL.—SPELLING THE WORD NIAGARA.

THE ALDERSHOF OVENS AT NIAGARA CAMP

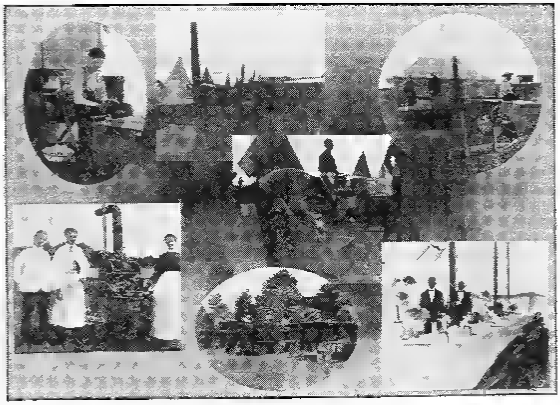
Great wood fires are built in these semi-circular steel ovens. When the wood has burned out the coals and ashes are withdrawn and the bread and roasting pans put in their place. The retained heat sufficiently bakes and roasts.



1 Youngest soldier in camp—Stanley Fleming, aged 7 years, of Stanley Barracks, Toronto. 2 Stunt 3. Stirring the Scotch blood of 2nd Dragoon officers—James Allan piper aged 12 years, Brantford. 4. Canteen,—2nd Dragoons.
5 Gen Otter and staff on field day The General s second from the front

SECOND DRAGOONS

ARMY MEDICAL CORPS



1 Peeling potatoes. 2. A line of cooking outfits in the infantry camp. 3, 4, 5. With the cooks. 6. Dinner in the artillery camp.
7 The officers' mess, 2nd Dragoons

83 ASTWORKS AND BRIDGE BUILT BY TORONTO ENGINEERS

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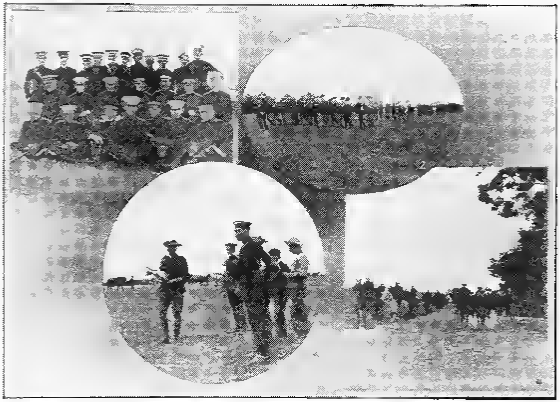

1. Recruits 2nd Dragoons. 2. G C B C marching to the rifle butts. 3. Mounted 4. Cavalry scout ng in the country

TWELFTH REGIMENT (YORK) ARRIVING

NIAGARA RIVER, QUEENSTON HEIGHTS AND BROCK'S MONUMENT

[illegible] HEADQUARTERS ON [illegible]

STREET SCENE IN OLD NIAGARA

CHURCH PARADE

Camp Niagara
Pamph
HC
C
Cruikshank,
Camp Niagara.

CAMP NIAGARA

WITH A HISTORICAL SKETCH OF NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE AND NIAGARA CAMP, BY LIEUT.-COL. E. CRUIKSHANK, F.R.S.C.

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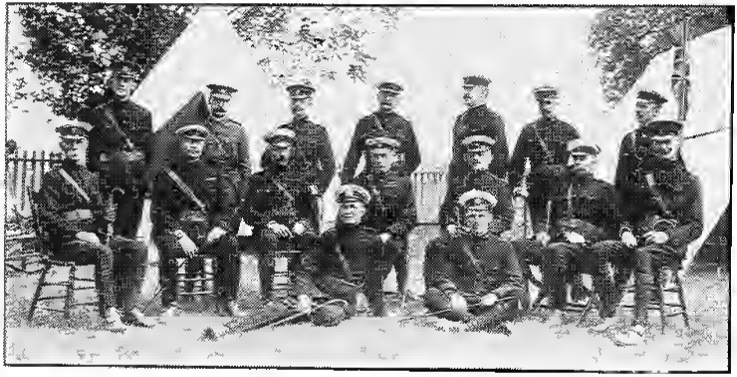


HEADQUARTERS STAFF

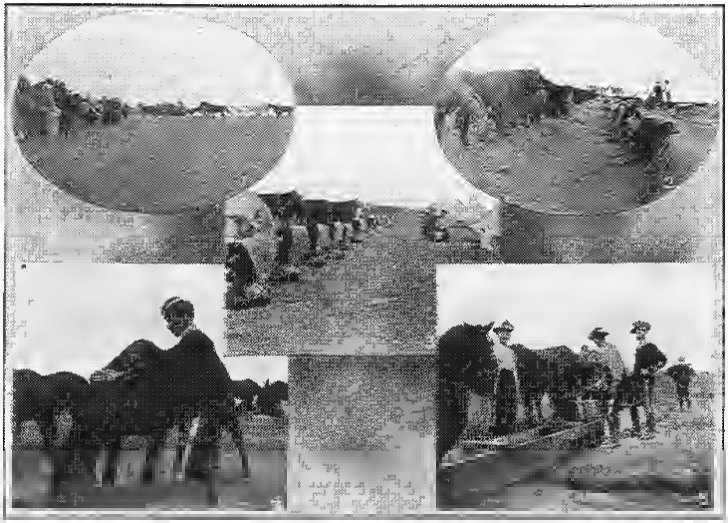
From left to right of picture— STANDING—Capt. Telford, Maj. Van Nostran, Maj. Langton, Lieut.-Col. Harston, Maj. Macdonald, Capt. Shanly, Capt. Harbottle. SITTING ON CHAIRS—Lieut.-Col. Thairs, Lieut.-Col. Pellatt, Lieut.-Col. Denison, Gen. Otter, Lieut.-Col. Galloway, Lieut.-Col. Hall, Lieut.-Col. Fotheringham. SITTING ON GROUND—Capt. Bruce, Capt. Benoit.

Historical Sketch of Niagara-on-the-Lake and Niagara Camp.

BY LIEUT COLONEL E CRUIKSHANK F R S C

NIAGARA ON-THE-LAKE enoys the distinctior of being not only the oldest incorporated town In the Provinee of Ontario but also the site of the first permanent British settlement within its fmits. By the terms nt a treaty negotiaed by Sir William Johnson with the Seneca fndians npon the 3rd day of April 1764, a lfttle more than a year nfter the eession of the French possessions in North Amerien to the British Empire by the Peace of Paris, a narrow strip of fand beginning at Fort Niagara and extending southward to the ereek above Fort Schlosser or Little Niagara an it was then eafled, comprehending the whole earrying place with the lnnds on both sides the strait and contnin ng a tract nbout fourteen nules in length and four in breadth" was transferred to the Crown together with the tight of eutting timber on their lands elsewhere, and the free use of all harbonrs on Lake Ontario, and ot all rivers talling nto it. These privileges were evidently sought for purposes of trnffe nnd defenee rather than colonization bnt during the summer of 1780 when the wars of the Amenican Revolution were fiereely raging the world overnnd Fort Niagara had become a hnven of refnge for hundreds of loyalists who had been mercilessly evicted from their former homes in New York and Pennsylvania Sir Frederiek Haldimand who was then Governor General of Canndn determnued to construct a large log barracks on the west bank of the river for the neeommodation of the corps of riflemen enlisted nmong these refugees by f rent-Colonel John Butler of the Indian Department and at the same time to encourage the settlement of their families upon the adjacent Crown Lands. Dnring the autnmn of tbnt year this building wbich is still used for eilitary purposes and commonly known as Butler's Barracks was completed nnd five or six fnmilies were settled in log houses near by fn three years the number of settlers had increased to forty nx fnmilies, who had npwnrds of seven hndred acres of lnnd under cnltivation well stocked with horses, eattle and swine fn the summer of 1784 Lieut-Colonel Butler's corps of rangers was disbanded and nearly five hundred able bodied men were added to the settlement- wbich was extended to nelude the whole Niagara Peninsula by treaty w th the Missassauga fndians nnd ftbernl grants of lands were nnde to all officers and sold ers, as well as to other loyalists. For nearly neven years Fort Niagara nnd Butler's Barracks had been the headqnarters and base nf operations for this renowned body of partisans whence they had sallied forth upon their rnids against the American frontier extending from Oswego on Lake Ontario to the Blue Licks in Kentucky These opetations had been attended with snch unvarying snccess and they were so adroit in selecting the point of nttack and the best line of retreat that their baffled enemies were wont to declare that it was as nseless to nttempt pursuit as it they had been a pack of wolves from the forest.

fn 1791 Lient-Governor Simcoe brought with him from England the corps known as the Queen n Rangers, also mainly composed of Amerlean foyalists, specrally enlisted for servee in Canada, who were qnartered for several years at Queenston and Niagara bnt were finally disbanded abont five years later when the majority also became settlers. Niagara was des gnated as the eapital of the new province of Upper Canndn nnd wns soon after incorporated as a town fn 1795 a site was selected on the high ground overlooking the mouth of the river for a small fieldwork which was named Fort George in honor of the King. The garrison of Fort Niagara was removed to this place npon the evacnation of that post in the following year ft was occupied snecessively by detachmen not the 5th nnd 24th Regiments of the f ine and when these troops were withdrawn in 1798 for service elsewhere by n part of the Second Battalion of the Royal Canadian Volunteers, enlisted in the Province to take their place In September 1802 this corps wns disbanded and the 49th Regiment occnpied the military posts in Upper Canada for the next ten years, when it was succeeded by the 41st which held them when war was declared by the United States in June 1812 Fort George was the principal garrison and headquarter station in the provinee during that time. ft is described in an offieinf report as nn irregular fieldwork consisting of six small bastions faced with framed timber and plank connected by lines of pallsades twelve feet in height and snrrounded by a shallow dry ditch fts situation and constrnetion were alike condemned by the inspecting engineer as being ill-judged and defective. Although partially commanding Fort Niagara it was itself overlooked by high ground on the opposite bank at the river near

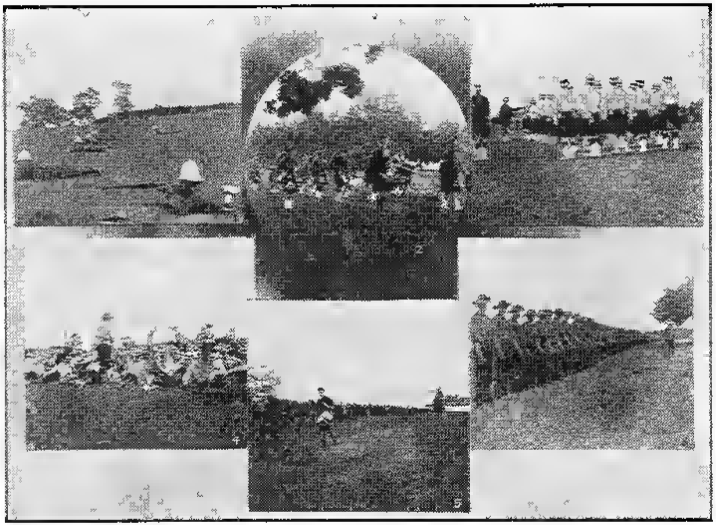


1. Muster Parade—Toronto Light Horse 2 Horses feeding at noon—G. G. B. G. 3. A well-dressed line—Squadron "D" G G B.G.
4 Horse grooming in 2nd Dragoon Lines 5 G G B G watering horses.

Youngstown. The garrison was lodged in log blockhouses, affording quarters for 220 men besides which there was a separate building for the officers. The magazine was built of stone with an arched roof, but was not considered bomb-proof. The whole of this fortification was greatly out of repair and not deemed capable of much defence. Under General Brock's supervision, however, the fort was considerably strengthened and several detached earthworks were thrown up on commanding points in the vicinity. No attack upon it was attempted until the morning of October 13th, 1812, when perceiving a column of troops on the march to oppose the passage of the river at Queenston the garrison of Fort Niagara turned all their guns upon Fort George and the town of Niagara with such destructive effect that in a few minutes the Courthouse and gaol with fifteen or sixteen other buildings were set on fire by shells or hot shot. While the greater part of the militia who occupied the fort in the absence of the regular garrison were employed in fighting the flames its guns were worked with such vigor and effect by a detachment of the Lincoln Artillery under Captains Cameron and Powell, assisted by two non-commissioned officers of the 41st Regiment, that in the course of an hour the American batteries were completely silenced. It was then discovered that the roof of the magazine which contained eight hundred barrels of powder had been set on fire by a shell. Without an instant's hesitation Captain Vigoreux of the Royal Engineers climbed upon the burning building, and his gallant example being promptly followed by others, the metal covering was soon torn off and the flames extinguished in the timbers underneath. The government storehouse at the water-side near Navy Hall was, however, entirely consumed.

One of the largest guns mounted in Fort Niagara burst while being discharged, wrecking the platform and disabling several men. In consequence of this accident and the heavy fire directed against the place from Fort George, it was evacuated by its garrison, which did not venture to re-occupy their works for several hours after the cannonade had ceased. Next day an armistice was concluded which continued in effect until 9 p.m. on November 20th. At daybreak on the following morning Fort George and the neighboring batteries began a second bombardment of Fort Niagara, which had in the meantime been considerably strengthened but appears to have been weakly garrisoned. The fire of its guns was irregular and ill directed, ceasing at times for considerable intervals; while flames, apparently caused by the explosion of shells, could be seen rising from within. One of these shells penetrated a blockhouse dismounting the only gun in position there, while another silenced the cannon mounted on the roof of the mess-house for more than an hour. Again a gun burst in the fort with disastrous results, and by five o'clock in the afternoon the whole of its artillery was absolutely silenced. A large building close under the walls which concealed the landing place from observation had also been set on fire and burnt. One of the guns in the battery at Youngstown had been dismounted, and the others only fired an occasional shot at great intervals. On the Canadian side the mess house at Navy Hall was destroyed and seventeen buildings were set on fire by hot shot in the town, while many others were much damaged. At dark the British gun ceased firing, having discharged upwards of two thousand round shot and shells, while the American batteries were supposed to have fired nearly an equal number.

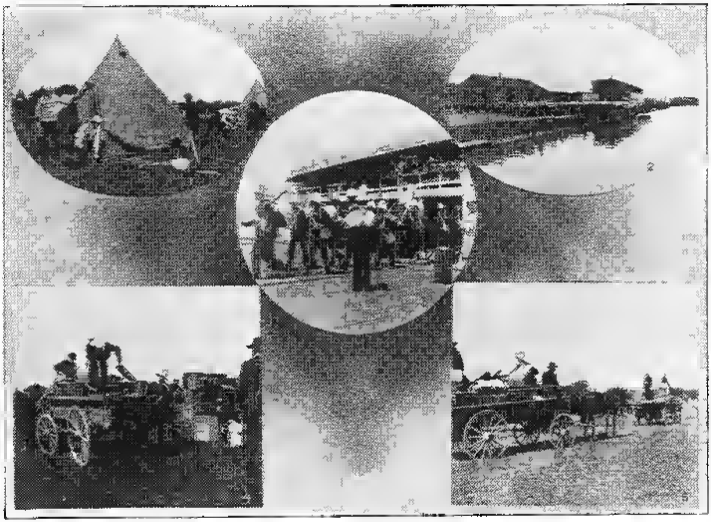
With this cannonade active hostilities in this vicinity may be said to have terminated for the next six months, but on the 8th of May 1813 the American squadron landed a brigade of infantry which had captured York (Toronto) ten days before. Large fatigue parties were at once set at work throwing up batteries along the river and building boats, while reinforcements continued to arrive until about seven thousand regular troops amply supplied with field artillery were assembled while their armed vessels, having undisputed control of the lake were in a position to cover a landing where they pleased. To oppose this formidable force Brigadier General Vincent had only 1080 regular soldiers, with five field pieces, 350 militia and fifty Indians. As it was deemed necessary to watch a front of eleven miles, extending from Queenston to the mouth of the Four Mile Creek on Lake Ontario, this small body was subdivided into three brigades of nearly equal strength, one of which was assigned to the defence of the river and another to the lake front, while the third was held in reserve near Fort George. At that time this post was armed with five guns. Six detached batteries on its left mounted ten guns. All of these however were open in the rear and liable to be enfiladed or taken in reverse by vessels upon the lake. At intervals the bank of the river between Fort George and Queenston there were three other batteries, each mounting one gun and at the latter place there were two batteries mounting three guns. All of these works required small garrisons, and Vincent's weak force was accordingly too much scattered to be quickly concentrated at any point.



1. Skirmishing drill, No 7 Company 44th Regiment. 2. Band 91st Highlanders on the march. 3 48th Highlanders. 4. 77th Regiment taking it easy in field 5 23rd Regiment in field. 6. 36th Regiment in field

Before daybreak on May 25 a British picket on the river heard the enemy launching boats at the Five Mile Meadows near Lewiston, and gave the alarm. The gun at Brown's Point began firing in that direction, and at dawn the garrison of Fort George opened fire upon some boats that could be dimly seen coming down the river close to the opposite bank. This immediately drew upon them the concentrated fire of no less than twenty-five heavy guns and mortars mounted in Fort Niagara and adjacent batteries arranged in the form of a crescent at distances varying, from seven hundred to one thousand yards. The twelve-pounder in Fort George was soon dismounted by a round shot which shattered its carriage and before seven o'clock every barrack and other wooden building inside the fort was set on fire by the incessant shower of hot shot and shells that rained upon it. The gunners were soon driven by the flames from the twenty-four pounder near the flagstaff, but the unequal contest was gallantly maintained by a gun of the same calibre in the cavalier and a smaller piece in the north-western bastion until Major Holcroft perceiving that the barracks and blockhouse would be totally destroyed and that shells were bursting in every corner of the works directed these undaunted artillerists to abandon their guns and retire under cover. During all this time the guns at Missassanga Point and the Cherry Tree had remained silent by the order of Lieut.-Colonel Myers who hoped by so doing to deprive the enemy of any excuse for turning their batteries upon the town, and the other detached batteries seem to have taken little part in the action from want of ammunition. The Americans discontinued firing about two o'clock and during the course of that afternoon and the following day their rowboats closely reconnoitered the shore and took soundings within gun shot without the slightest molestation. As a result of their observations buoys were placed to mark the stations to be occupied by their ships to silence the shore batteries and cover the landing of troops.

Shortly after reveille had sounded on the morning of May 27th a rocket was seen to rise from the ramparts of Fort Niagara and a single gun was discharged. This proved to be a signal for all the American batteries to begin a cannonade which was not returned and ceased at the end of half an hour. Long after the sun had risen a thick fog hung over the lake and river but when this rolled away about eight o'clock the American fleet, consisting of sixteen armed vessels was seen standing across the mouth of the river closely followed by one hundred and thirty four large boats and scows, filled with men formed in three compact divisions, moving with great regularity and precision. Their approach was favored by a gentle breeze from the eastward which however scarcely raised a ripple on the surface of the water. The united broadsides of these vessels amounted to fifty-one guns mostly of long range and heavy calibre and they took up the stations assigned them without the slightest opposition sweeping the shore in every direction with their fire. Their land batteries re-opened at the same time and the British position in the vicinity of Niagara and Fort George was subjected to a cross-fire from more than seventy guns and mortars which searched every part of it within range and easily overwhelmed any attempt to reply. The landing of the troops began about an hour later near the mouth of the Two Mile Creek where a level sandy beach, sheltered by a steep bank afforded a favorable position for them to form up after leaving their boats. As soon as they attempted to gain the plain they were assailed by three companies of the Glengarry Light Infantry, two companies of the 1st Lincoln Militia and the grenadiers of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment and driven back in disorder. The guns of the ships which had ceased firing then reopened and forced the British troops to take shelter in a neighboring ravine where they were soon joined by three hundred of the 8th Regiment of the Line. The Americans continued to receive reinforcements until the number on shore exceeded two thousand opposed by not more than five hundred and sixty. A second attempt to ascend the bank was repulsed but a third succeeded and after forming on the plain above the hopeless struggle was continued for a quarter of an hour during which the opposing lines exchanged several volleys at a distance of not more than ten or fifteen yards. Numbers prevailed and the remnant of the British force was obliged to retreat to a second ravine about three hundred yards in the rear leaving nearly three hundred killed and wounded behind. Five companies of the 49th with a field gun, came to its support and after remaining in this position until its flank was threatened by a turning movement, orders were given to retire through the fields in the direction of St. Davids. This was effected without molestation and a junction formed with the troops retreating from the vicinity of Fort George which was at the same time abandoned and its magazine blown up. General Vincent continued his retreat to Burlington Heights where he arrived on the last day of May, but on the night of the fifth of June he turned upon his pursuers and surprising their camp at Stoney Creek, struck such a stinging blow that they fell back in haste



SEEN THE FIRST DAY

1 Pitching tent—Army Medical Corps. 2. Regiment at dock ready to march to the Camp Grounds. 3 Disembarking from N. N. Co.'s steamer 4 Unloading stores 5 Baggage coming into camp.

to Niagara leaving two generals and more than two hundred other prisoners in his hands. Another severe check was administered to the invaders at the Beaver Dams in the township of Thorold where an entire column of nearly six hundred men was surrounded and compelled to surrender. These reverses had such a disquieting effect that they shut themselves up in an intrenched camp adjoining the western flank of Fort George, with their pickets thrown out as far as the line of the Two Mile Creek and McFarland's house on the River Road. Here they were closely watched and virtually blockaded for several months by a much inferior force. During this period many smart skirmishes took place. On July 8th the whole of an American outpost numbering forty men was killed or taken at Ball's farm on the Swamp Road and on August 24th a reconnoissance in force surprised all the American outposts at daybreak driving them into camp with the loss of seventy prisoners. Intelligence of General Procter's defeat on the river Thames compelled Vincent to abandon his advanced position and again withdraw to Burlington Heights, about the middle of October, but on the seventh of December his advance guard under Colonel John Murray was pushed forward to St Catharines. Three days later what remained of the once flourishing town of Niagara was deliberately burnt by the order of the Commandant at Fort George preparatory to the evacuation of that post. Murray then advanced with such unforeseen rapidity that the American garrison was forced to retire across the river leaving their tents standing and several pieces of artillery lying in the ditch of the fort which they had not time to remove.

On the morning of December 19th Fort Niagara was taken by assault and an American force was at the same time driven from the battery on Lewiston Heights, leaving behind their artillery and a number of prisoners. This victorious campaign concluded with the capture of Black Rock and Buffalo on December 30th.

During the spring and early summer of 1814 a small earthwork surrounded by a dry ditch and enclosing a brick tower was constructed on Missassinga Point named at the time "Fort Mead" in honour of the Major General then in command on the Niagara frontier but which is now known as "Fort Mississauga" and Fort George was repaired and strengthened. After his defeat at Chippawa on July 5th General Riall placed a garrison of nearly twelve hundred men in these forts and retired to the Twenty Mile Creek but although they were closely reconnoitered by the victorious Americans, who approached within cannon shot no assault was attempted.

After the conclusion of peace they were garrisoned by the 70th Regiment which was relieved by the 76th. During the Rebellion of 1837-8 they were successively occupied by detachments of the 3rd 43rd King's Dragoon Guards and 1st Frontier Light Infantry. In 1841 the Royal Canadian Rifles Regiment was embodied for frontier service and until its disbandment in 1870 a detachment of that corps was quartered here. From April 1865 to April 1866 the Second Administrative Battalion of Volunteer Militia was stationed on this frontier with headquarters at Niagara.

From the date of the earliest organization of the militia of Upper Canada the town had been the headquarters of the First Regiment of Lincoln Militia which assembled here annually upon the 4th of June, the birthday of King George the Third, for muster and enrolment until the accession of Queen Victoria in 1837. It was not, however, until 1871 that the Common was definitely selected as a training ground for a considerable body of troops. In June of that year the first divisional camp of instruction for Military District No. 2 was formed and attended by 4795 officers and men. The Camp in June 1872 was still larger, being composed of 435 officers and 5438 non commissioned officers and privates. With the exception of a very few years since camps have been formed here annually, varying in size from less than two thousand to nearly six thousand men and have been attended at some time not only by all the corps in Military District No. 2 but by most of those in the two adjoining districts.

LIST OF CORPS OF THE CANADIAN MILITIA WHICH HAVE BEEN IN CAMP AT NIAGARA BETWEEN 1871 AND 1906.

Royal Canadian Dragoons, Royal Canadian Regiment, Governor-General's Body Guard, 1st Hussars, 2nd Dragoons, 3rd Prince of Wales Canadian Dragoons, 9th Toronto Light Horse, 4th, 7th, 9th, 10th and 16th Field Batteries, Canadian Engineers, 2 Field Co. Corps of Guides. INFANTRY: 2nd Queen's Own Rifles, 10th Royal Grenadiers, 12th Regiment, 13th, 16th, 19th, 20th, 22nd, 23rd, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 42nd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 57th, 58th, 77th, 91st, 97th, Canadian Army Service Corps, Army Medical Corps, Field Ambulance Nos. X, XI and XII, Niagara Falls Cadet Company.

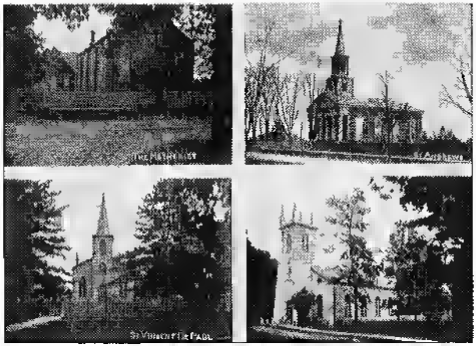
(GD)

The Niagara Historical Society possesses an extensive and unique collection of books, papers, documents and objects of historical interest, for the accommodation of which a handsome building has recently been erected in the immediate vicinity of the camp-ground.

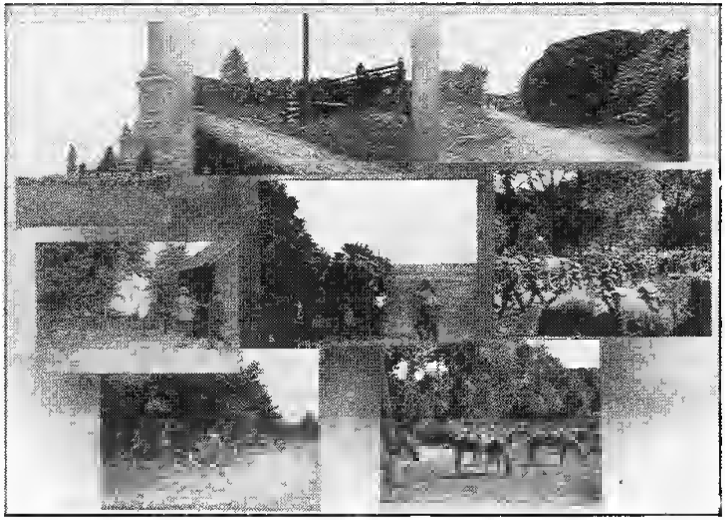
The following localities have also been appropriately marked by the Society with stone monuments. The grave of General Brock at Fort George. The Battlefield of May 27th, 1813. The site of the Indian Council House. The site of the Gleaner printing office and Masonic Hall built in 1792. The site of Navy Hall. The house of Comte de Puisaye. The site of Lieut. Governor Simcoe's residence.

E. Cruikshank

FORT MISSASSALGA

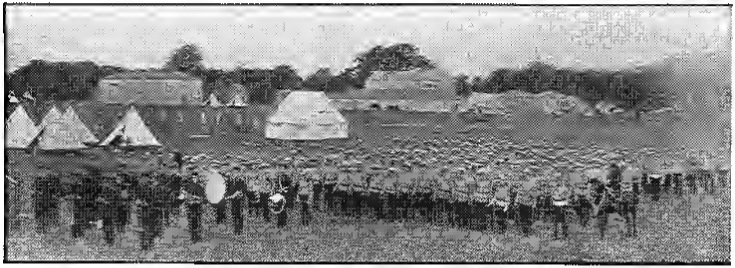


CHURCHES AT OLD NIAGARA.

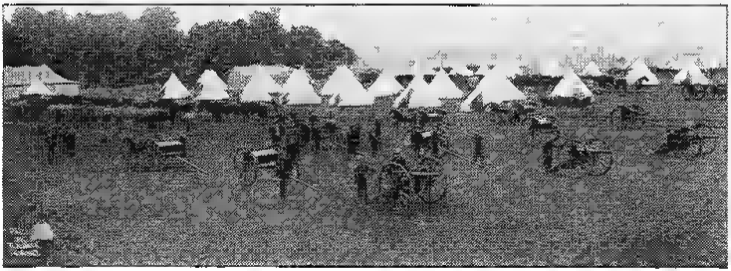


THE SHAM FIGHT

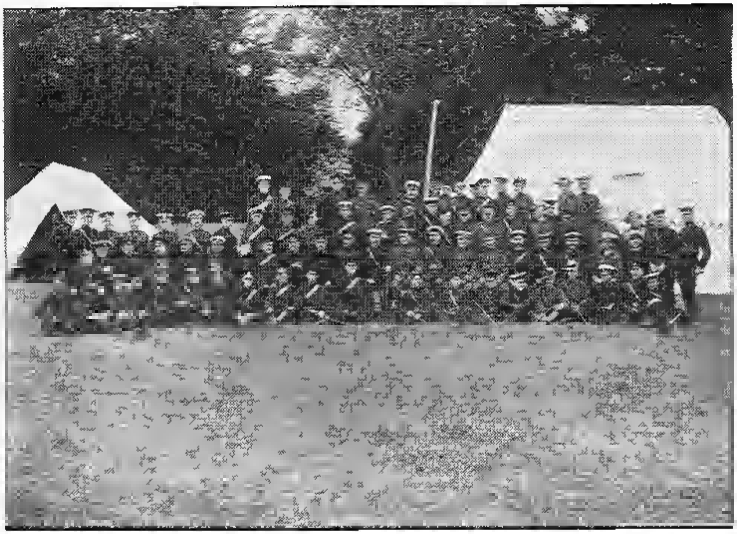
1 48th Highlanders stacking arms at Brock's Monument 2 Guarding road—44th Regt. 3. Scene at Queenston quarries. 4 At Queenston quarries— Fire! 5 Gen Otter and troops near Brock's Monument. 6. 36th Peel marching to camp after the fight. 7 Near Brock's Monument Ready " 8 G G B.G headed by Lieut-Col Merritt on road south of St. Davids.



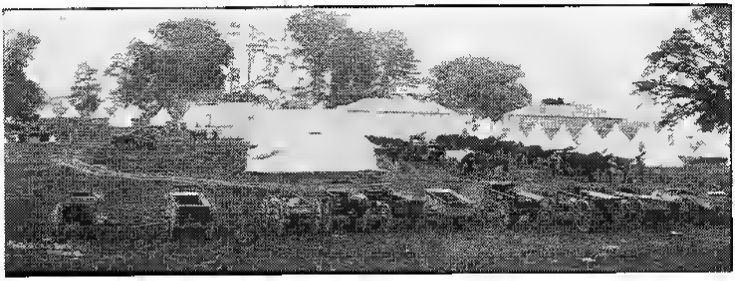
77TH REGIMENT WITH BUTLER'S BARRACKS IN THE BACKGROUND—SEE HISTORICAL SKETCH



ARTILLERY CAMP

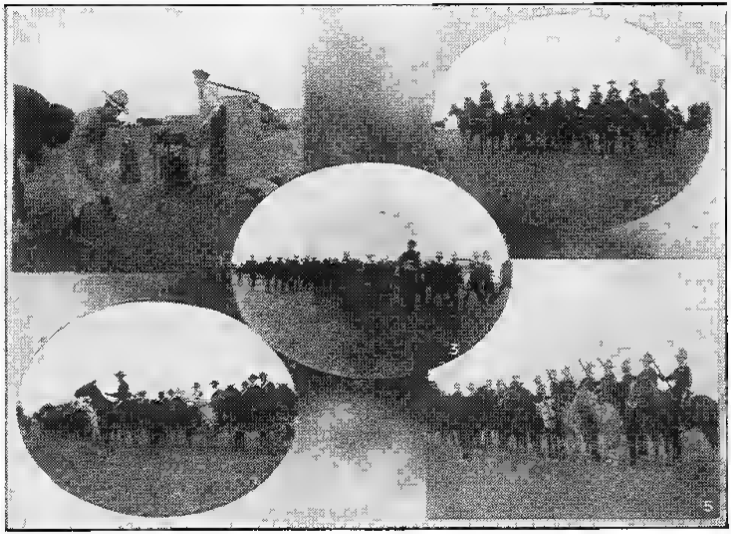


OFFICERS OF THIRD INFANTRY BRIGADE

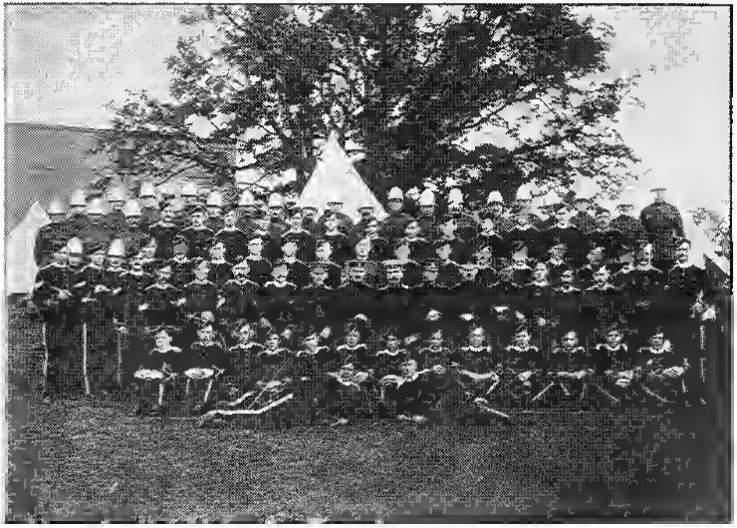


ARMY SERVICE CORPS CAMP

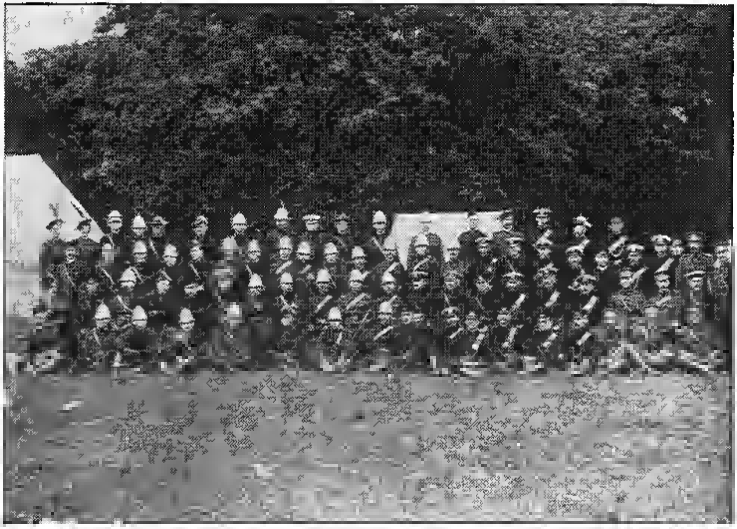
WITH THE ARTILLERY MEN—AND WOMEN TOO



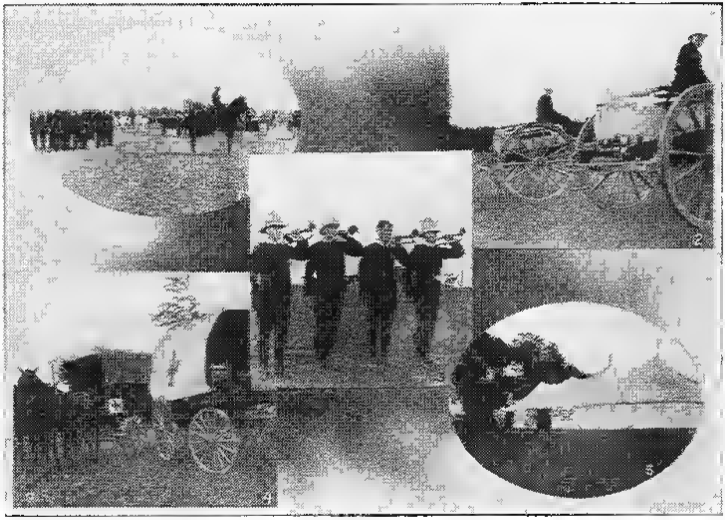
1. Horseshoeing—G G B G. 2. Toronto Light Horse—ready for inspection 3 Second Dragoons returning from rifle butts.
4. G G B G —ready for inspection. 5 Second Dragoons—ready for inspection.



ARMY SERVICE CORPS

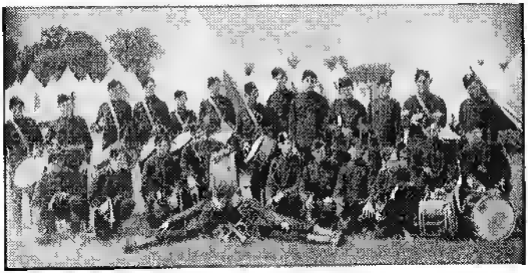


OFFICERS OF FOURTH INFANTRY BRIGADE



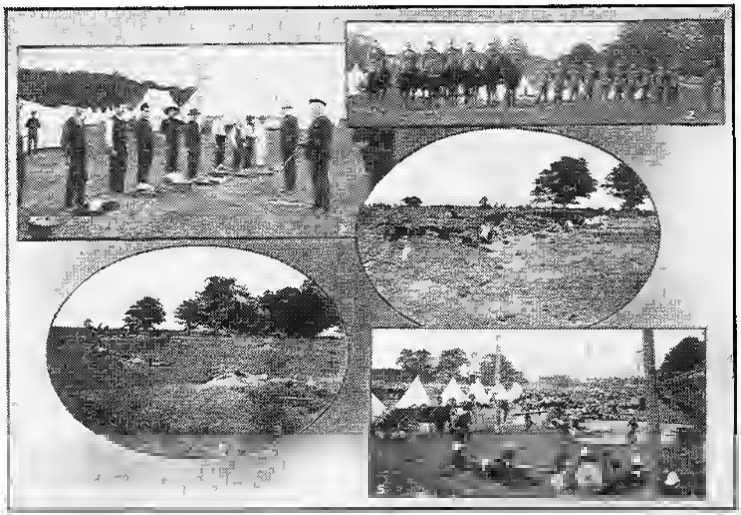
1 Field Ambulance Nos. 10 11 and 12. 2. Water Carts—Army Medical Corps. 3 Trumpeters, 2nd Dragoons
4. Ambulance Wagons—Army Medical Corps 5 Y M C A tent on Camp Grounds

OFFICERS OF FORTY-FOURTH REGIMENT

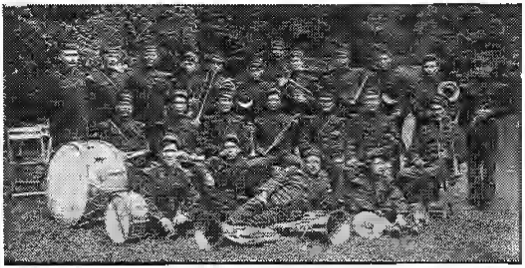


BUGLE BAND OF FORTY-FOURTH REG'T—LARGEST IN CAMP Photo. by Lusk, 2½ Queen E., Toronto.

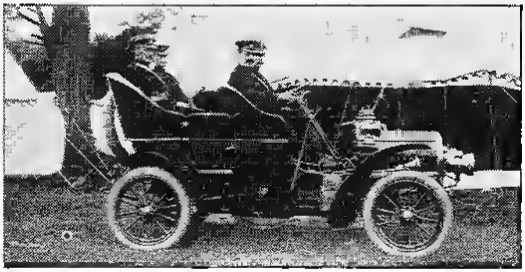
OFFICERS ARMY MEDICAL CORPS—"FIFTH WHEEL MESS." Photo. by Lusk, 2½ Queen E., Toronto



1 Serving meat rations to cooks of 12th Regt 2. Regulars from Stanley Barracks, who acted as police during camp. 3 Rifle pits—taken from rear 4. Field entrenchment—taken from rear 5 31st Regiment preparing to entrain after camp.

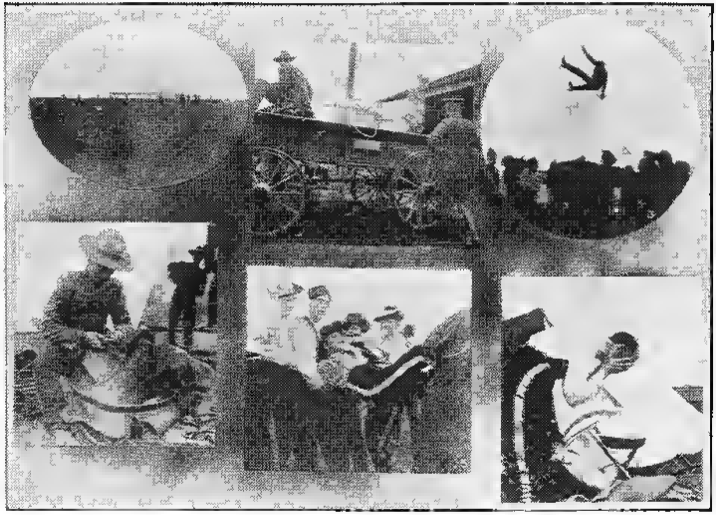


INDIAN BAND—37TH REGIMENT Photo. by Lusk, 2½ Queen E. Toronto,



The Auto in Warfare—Property of Major W E. S. Knowles The other gentlemen are Lieut Col Ptolemy Major Orr and Capt Hager—all officers of the 77th Reg t. The head lights of the machine helped at the distribution of rations at the bivouac on Queenston Heights—sham fight

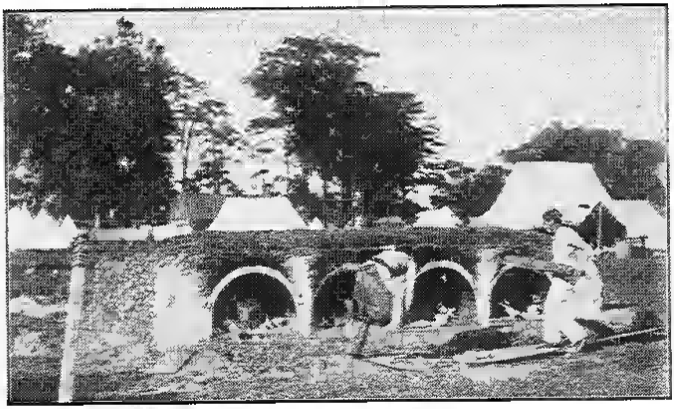
SCALING DRILL



1 At the rifle butts. 2. Unloading bread. 3 The blanket throw 4. Cleaning harness 5 Poor "Snowball"—G G B. G
6. The toilet—2nd Dragoons.

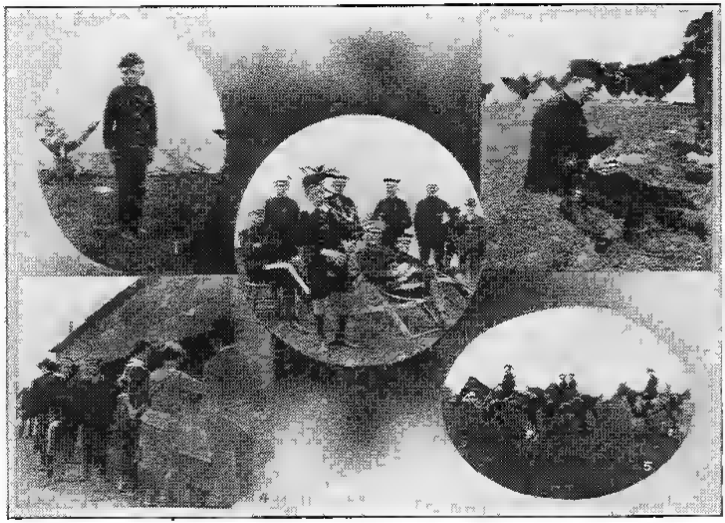
HARBOR SCENE AT OLD MAGARA.

SIGNAL DRILL.—SPELLING THE WORD N-I A-G A RA.



THE ALDERSHOT OVENS AT NIAGARA CAMP

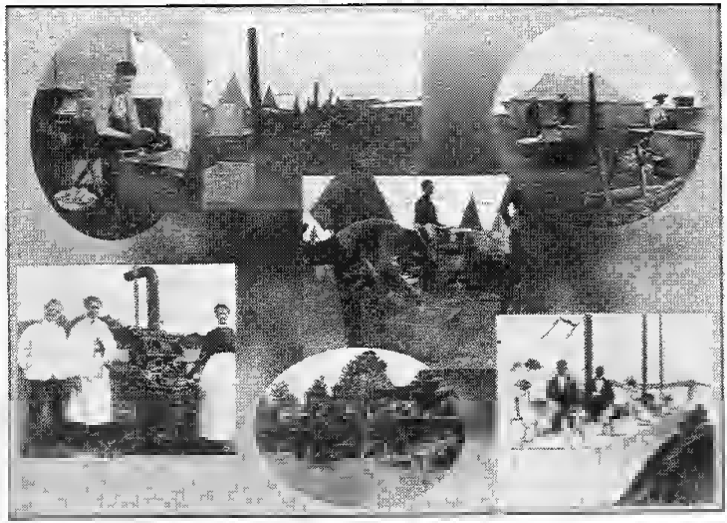
Great wood fires are built in these semi circular steel ovens When the wood has burned out the coals and ashes are withdrawn and the bread and roasting pans put in their place The retained heat sufficiently bakes and roasts.



1 Youngest soldier in camp—Stanley Fleming, aged 7 years, of Stanley Barracks—Toronto 2. Shine! 3. Stirring the Scotch blood of 2nd Dragoon officers—James Allen, piper, aged 12 years, Brantford. 4. Canteen,—2nd Dragoons. 5 Gen Otter and staff on field day The General is second from the front.

SECOND DRAGOONS

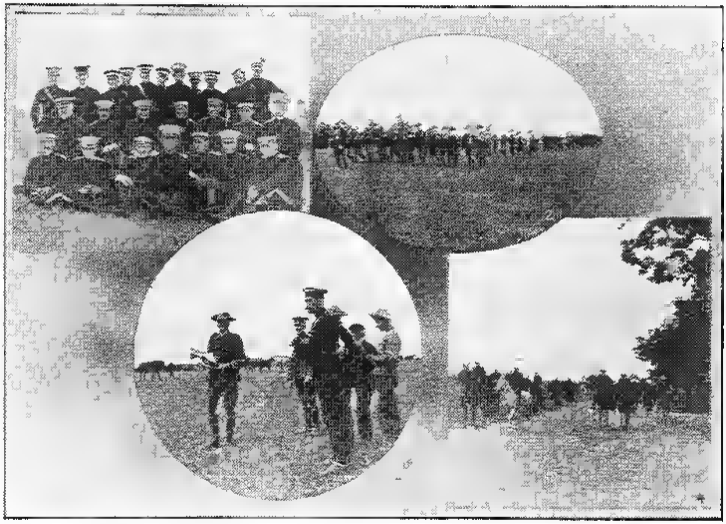
ARMY MEDICAL CORPS



1 Peeling potatoes. 2. A line of cooking outfits in the infantry camp 3 4 5 With the cooks. 6. Dinner in the artillery camp.
7. The officers' mess 2nd Dragoons

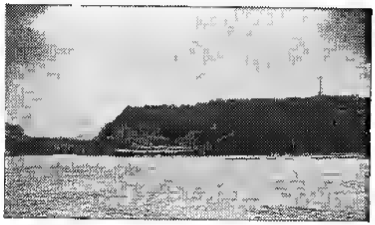
RY. ASTWORKS AND BRIDGE BUILT BY TORONTO ENGINEERS

INFANTRY CAMP



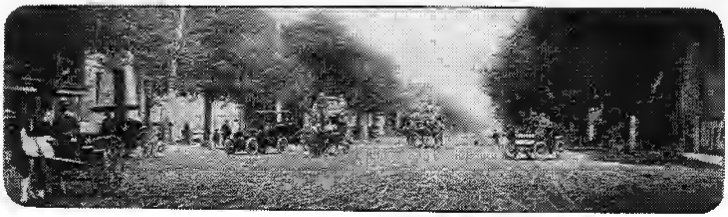
1 Officers 2nd Dragoons. 2 G G B G marching to the rifle butts. 3. Muster 4. Cavalry scouting in the country

TWELFTH REGIMENT (YORK) ARRIVING

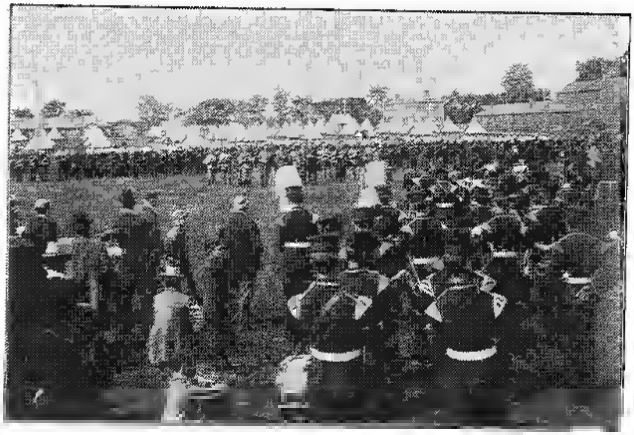


NIAGARA RIVER: QUEENSTON HEIGHTS AND BROCK'S MONUMENT

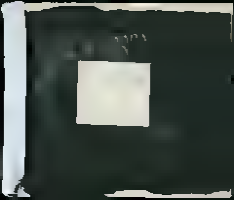
MILITARY HEADQUARTERS ON CAMP GROUNDS



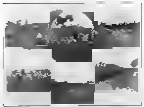
STREET SCENE IN OLD NIAGARA



CHURCH PARADE.



CAMP NIAGARA



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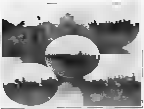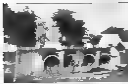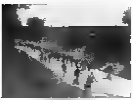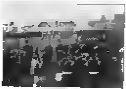
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